

## Research Article

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### *Blepharopsis mendica* in Euphrates region of South Turkey (Mantodea, Empusidae)

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**Abstract:** *Blepharopsis mendica* in Euphrates region of South Turkey (Mantodea, Empusidae).  
*Cesa News* 138: 1-4, 12 figs. 1 map.

This short article deals with occurrence of *Blepharopsis mendica* in Euphrates region (South Turkey). Nocturnal activity, feeding behaviour of this mantid is briefly discussed with illustrations in nature. Faunistically, the species is new to Gaziantep Province (South Turkey).

**Keywords:** *Blepharopsis mendica*, Empusidae, Mantodea, fauna, Gaziantep, Nizip, Turkey.

The genus *Blepharopsis* was established by Rehn (1902) in the family Empusidae. Ehrmann (2011) listed 13 genera of Mantodea from Turkey and Cyprus without citing their families. The species under discussion *Mantis mendica* was described by Fabricius in 1775, which is currently considered as a valid name in the genus *Blepharopsis*. The synonymy of several names in the species was mentioned by Ehrmann (2011). The suspicious or ambiguous records of this species in Turkey were discussed by Ehrmann (2011). He also evaluated a single male from Birecik (Urfa Province), captured by himself on 8 vii 1996<sup>2</sup>, as a new record for Turkey.

During the recent excursions to Nizip, realized by the authors (Kemal & Koçak, 2017), three specimens of this species were obtained during night collecting moths. This latest field study reveals that *Blepharopsis mendica* inhabits in the dry steppe of the low, calcareous hilly area in the Euphrates region. The adult activity of this species begins in April already.

The adults are nocturnal, and insectivor. The collected specimens were apparently attracted by a large number of moths concentrated to the light trap (**Figs. 1-11**). These mantids ate the bodies

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<sup>2</sup> This specimen was deposited in “SMNK”: Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Karlsruhe, Germany.

of the following moths (**Fig. 12**): *Rhodostrophia discopunctata* (Geometridae), *Cynaeda gigantea* (Pyrallidae), also *Calophasia platyptera* (Noctuidae) (Kemal & Koçak, 2017).

This species has a wide distribution in Africa and SW Asia (**Map 1**). The present record of the species is the second provincial one in Turkey.

Material studied: 2 ex. Gaziantep Prov., Nizip, Kızılcakent 575m, 23 4 2017; 1 ex from same province and district, Samandöken 430m 25 4 2017, M. Kemal & A.Koçak leg. (coll. Cesa-33).



**Figs. 1 – 6.** Various images of *Blepharopsis mendica*, Nizip, Kızılcakent 575m, on 23 4 2017 early in the morning 6.17 a.m. M. Kemal (Cesa)

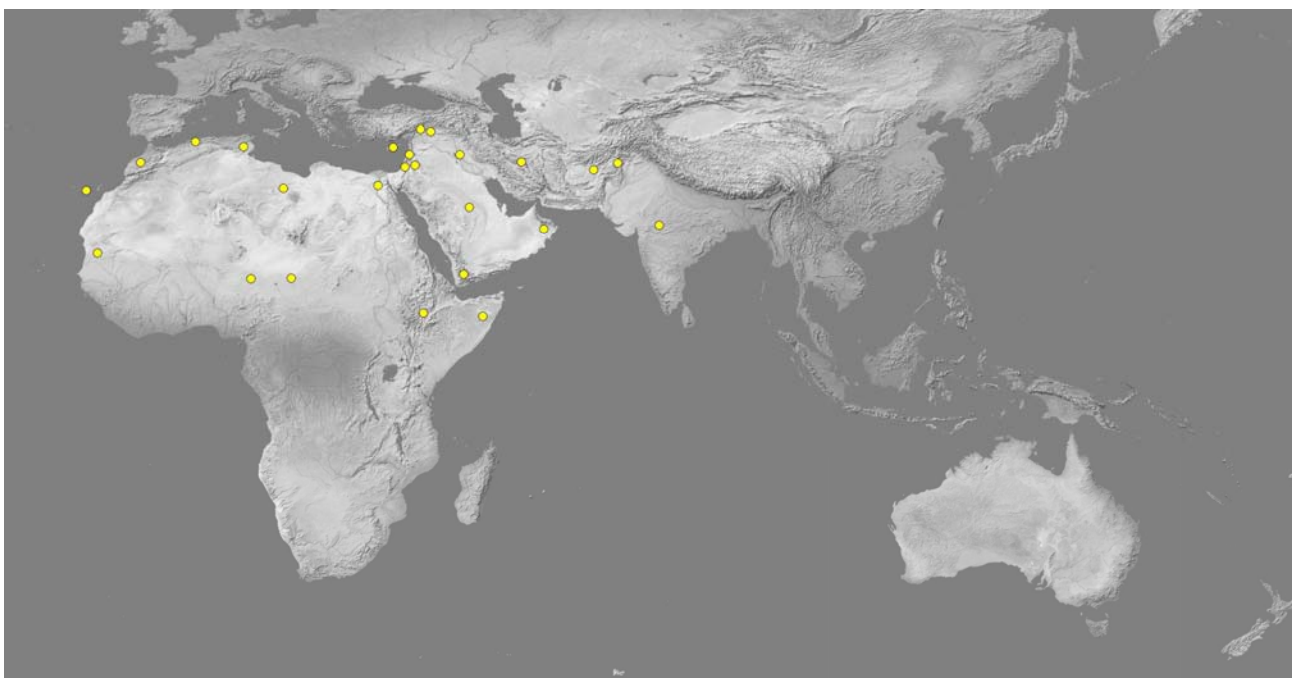


**Figs. 7- 11.** Various images of *Blepharopsis mendica*, Nizip, Samandöken 430m on 25 4 2017 early in the morning 5.46 a.m. M. Kemal (Cesa)





**Fig. 12** - Wings on the earth, the rest of the moth specimens, eaten by *Blepharopsis mendica* at Kızılcakent 575m (Nizip, Gaziantep Prov.), on 23 4 2017. M. Kemal (Cesa)



**Map 1** – Representative distribution of *Blepharopsis mendica* (Empusidae).

## References

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**Kemal, M. & A.Ö. Koçak**, 2017, On the vernal Lepidoptera fauna of Nizip-Birecik district – Euphrates region in South Turkey. *Cesa News* 137: 1-20.

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